

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)
*November 2019***

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its November 7 meeting, the GMPB:

- Heard from the PSRC Director of Growth Management Paul Inghram regarding board review and action on the November 6 list of Draft Vision 2050 Proposed GMPB Amendments , for board discussion and action. There are four groups of proposed amendments:
 1. Board member-proposed Amendments for Consideration, Table 1, Level 1: changes that may be more complex, require more discussion or require significant changes to the plan
 2. Board member-proposed Amendments for Consideration, Table 1 Level 2: changes that are less complex or require fewer changes to the draft plan
 3. Board member-proposed Amendments for Consideration, Table 2: Completed Board Amendments
 4. Amendments that are recommended for approval as a group: classified C and C-revised amendments

The GMPB gave direction on 22 of the 72 potential amendments in Table 1. The direction included consideration of a revised amendment sponsored by Bellevue Mayor John Chelminiak during the GMPB's November 21 meeting.

- Agreed to a special meeting on November 21 to continue working through the table of potential amendments to prepare a recommended draft of the plan. The board will be asked to make a recommendation on the full plan to the Executive Board at its meeting in December.

The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for November 21 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its November 14 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended changing the status of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT's) State Route (SR) 509 Extension (with I-5) Phase 1 project from "candidate" to "approved" status.** This project will connect SR 509 with I-5 in the City of SeaTac and reconstruct the SR 518/I-5 interchange. The total cost of this project is \$890 million.
- **Discussed the 2019 Transit Integration Report.** At the direction of the PRSC Executive Board, the PSRC staff have prepared annual reports on transit integration since 2014. The purpose of the Report is to increase awareness of ongoing transit coordination activities and

opportunities in the region. The Transit Integration Report, with minor changes, will also satisfy annual RCW 35.58.2796 reporting requirements for the WSDOT to submit an annual report documenting transit coordination in the central Puget Sound.

The report describes the next steps stakeholders will take to continue coordination. The next steps relevant to Bellevue include the following:

- I-5 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) system. Transit agencies are collaborating with the WSDOT and other stakeholders to provide near-term improvements in the I-5 HOV system performance, transit speed and reliability, including lane management policies and other measures.
- ORCA LIFT. The region's transit agencies are collaborating to boost enrollment in ORCA LIFT, a reduced-fare program for low income customers. As an example, the agencies are currently providing a \$10 incentive to new and renewing ORCA LIFT customers in Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties.
- **Discussed the PSRC's Transit, Transportation Demand Management (TDM), and Special Needs Transportation Work Program.** The PSRC adopted its Regional Transportation Plan last year. The Plan contains policies and investments to support a sustainable, multimodal transportation system for people and goods. The TPB received a briefing on the implementation of the transit, TDM, and special needs transportation activities described in the Plan, including:
 - Transit. The PSRC is collaborating with the region's transit agencies to support major transit expansion projects, such as Sound Transit 3 (ST3) and the implementation of METRO CONNECTS, King County Metro's 2040 transit service vision. The PSRC is also planning for further transit investments needed by 2050, beyond the horizon of ST3 and METRO CONNECTS.
 - TDM supports the efficiency of the transportation system by promoting alternatives to driving alone, such as transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking, biking and teleworking. The PSRC is analyzing the benefits and reach of TDM programs.
 - Special needs transportation provides mobility options for people who are unable to transport themselves due to age, income, or disability. The PSRC's role is to maintain and update a regional Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan that identifies mobility needs and gaps of seniors, youth, people with disabilities, and people with low income, and identifies priority strategies to address those needs.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for December 12.

REGIONAL TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTODAC)

At its November 15 meeting, the RTODAC:

- Received a summary of the PSRC-sponsored *Bringing the Region Together* Event on October 4 at the Bellevue Youth Theatre in the Crossroads neighborhood. Bellevue Councilmember Conrad Lee was a speaker. King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci was the keynote speaker.

- Discussed with PSRC staff whether the Draft Vision 2050 Plan updates capture the goals, intent, and relevant aspects of the Growing Transit Communities (GTC) strategy. Committee members discussed these items and asked clarifying questions, but did not make formal recommendations.
- Received an update on the Regional Equitable Development Initiative (REDI) Fund. In response to the significant investments being made in Puget Sound transit, the public-private REDI Fund was created to help finance the acquisition of properties along transit corridors for equitable and affordable TOD, preserving the affordability of future housing and community facilities. James Madden of Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. provided an update on four projects using the REDI Fund: Capitol Hill Housing and JazzEd at Rainier Valley; Mount Baker Housing at Mt. Baker Light Rail Station; Bellwether Housing at the Tukwila International Boulevard Light Rail Station; and Tacoma Housing Authority at Tacoma Community College Light Rail Station.
- Received an informational update from Marty Kooistra, Executive Director of the Housing Development Consortium (HDC) on Sound Communities—Solving for Housing Affordability at Scale. In the HDC presentation staff noted that the Puget Sound region is moving forward with the most expansive and transformative investments in high capacity transit in its history. Scores of light rail stations, bus rapid transit lines, heavy rail improvements and new ferries routes will come online over the next 20 years. These investments in transit will provide critically needed mobility to the additional 1.8 million people expected here between now and 2050. Communities now have the rare opportunity to look ahead and ensure thoughtful planning and investment enables the production of housing to ensure the region gets the most out of these public investments in transit and at the same time critical meet economic, environmental, and equity goals.

Local governments are doing their best to balance the multitude of competing needs with limited resources to plan and execute at a larger scale over a longer time horizon. In response, a group of community leaders has been brainstorming ways to complement and support the work of transit agencies and local governments. This effort, called Sound Communities, seeks to promote the development of complete, walkable, equitable and inclusive neighborhoods at scale across the Puget Sound region in concert with the region's historic investment in transit.

A potential approach is to form a region-wide public entity that would receive, acquire, and own land around transit hubs. In exchange for public benefits, this entity would lease or transfer land for the purpose of ensuring strategic production and distribution of housing types, with a focus on affordability, at a scale commensurate with the anticipated regional affordable housing shortage.

Sound Communities is initiating a comprehensive process that will engage a broad array of stakeholders in this conversation. The HDC is seeking participation in this process from all sectors (public sector, non-profits, business interests, and citizens whose community is at stake). The University of Washington will serve as the convening institution and Sound Communities will retain professional facilitators, consultants, and legal counsel to support

the process. Sound Communities has received \$150,000 in funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce, which will provide the resources needed to retain a consultant and additional professional support.

The next RTODAC meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2020.